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Docket No.: MRE-014

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :  
Jae Hyuk CHO :  
Serial No. 09/433,380 : Group Art Unit: 3652  
Confirm. No.: 2475 : Examiner: J. Krizek  
Filed: November 3, 1999 : Customer No.: 34610  
For: MULTI STACKER FOR HANDLER :

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2003, reconsideration of the rejections set forth therein is requested as follows:

Claims 10-22 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chiappe et al. (hereinafter "Chiappe"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Chiappe discloses a work load regulator for automated production. In particular, Figure 6 shows a cross feed conveyor 42 for storage trays 64, which have individual storage areas 66 for respective cans 68. The cross feed conveyor 42 is positioned between magazines 50, 52 and includes conveyor 70. The magazines 50, 52 each have vertical frame members 140, horizontal members 142, and tray guides 143. Each magazine 50, 52 further has an associated tray lift 60,

60A. The lift units 60, 60A each include a piston and cylinder arrangement 164, 164a for operating a tray support frame 166, 166a, which engages a tray 64 when raised into contact therewith at least to and slightly above a level of a drive shaft 160, 162 of the tray support mechanisms 168.

In depositing an empty tray 64 on the conveyor 70, lift 60 bearing the tray 64 deposits it by being moved to a withdrawn position below the conveyor 70. The tray 64 situated in the transfer area travels left (in Figure 6) on the conveyor 70. A full tray 64 is then lifted by lift 62 and is added to the stack of trays 64 in the full tray magazine 52 from the bottom. The tray 64 is lifted until the upper surfaces of its corner pieces 182 engage the lower surfaces of the corner pieces 184 of the tray 64 disposed above it. In this position, the lift 62 is prepared to support the weight of the entire stack of storage containers 64. The tray support drive mechanisms 160, 162 are actuated and the supports 168 are withdrawn horizontally and an entire stack is raised horizontally and the entire stack is raised in increments equal to the height of the tray 64. The drive mechanisms 160, 162 are then operated in the reverse or extended mode and the supports 168 engage the bottom of the lowermost tray 64. There upon the lift 62 withdraws to a retracted position and the entire stack is supported until a position is cycled or the reverse cycle. The trays are thus upstacked or downstacked as indicated.

Regarding independent claim 10, Chiappe does not disclose or suggest a stacker frame as well as a guide frame positioned below and coupled to a bottom of the stacker frame. Chiappe only discloses the magazines 50, 52, which constitute only one frame. Further, Chiappe

does not disclose or suggest a plurality of tray plates stacked on a movement plate and configured to move upward and downward within a guide attached to the guide frame and within the stacker frame. Regarding independent claim 22, Chiappe does not disclose or suggest a plurality of tray plates stacked on a movement plate and configured to move upward and downward within the guide frame, wherein each of the tray plates is configured to receive a tray holding a plurality of semiconductor devices. Chiappe only discloses trays 64, which receive respective cans 68. Thus, Chiappe does not disclose or suggest tray plates supported on a movement plate and configured to each receive a tray, each tray holding a plurality of semiconductor devices.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 10 and 22 as being anticipated by Chiappe should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 11-21 and 24-29 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 10 and 22, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carol L. Druzbeck, at the telephone number listed below.

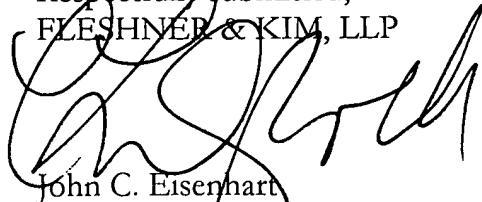
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**Date:** November 10, 2003

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